

Command SEA visits Lakenheath, U.K. bases

By TSgt. Chris Wuerthner
Air Force News, U.K. bureau

The USAFE senior enlisted advisor visited RAF Lakenheath March 19 as part of a "get-acquainted tour" with the people and bases in the United Kingdom.

CMSgt. Kenneth Casey, who took the position of USAFE senior enlisted advisor five months ago, brought along information on several command programs, especially quality of life. It's one of the many areas he deals with as the USAFE commander's representative to the enlisted corps. Casey explained that it's a top concern for the command.

"We're doing very well in the area of quality of life," said Casey. "We're renovating dorms to the 1-plus-1 standard, we're renovating houses at about the rate of 400 homes per year, we have new commissaries opening, we have new base exchanges opening and we have child development centers opening."

Casey said USAFE plans to reconfigure airman and enlisted dorms into the 1-plus-1 mode by the turn of the century. Both he and the USAFE commander recognize that privacy is important for airmen and the Air Force, according to the chief.

"It's a retention item, and more importantly, they deserve the privacy that we're going to give them with 1-plus-1," said the chief. "They're great folks, they're smart folks, they're doing great things for us and they deserve the privacy when they go home to relax a little bit and get away from the hectic schedule of day-to-day business."

That hectic schedule is a fact of life at many USAFE bases. The people of Laken-



Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

CMSgt. Kenneth Casey talks with students at the 3rd Air Force Airman Leadership school during his U.K. visit.

heath are supporting missions in Bosnia, Northern Iraq, Africa and more. According to the chief, USAFE is determined that no one serves more than 120 days a year on temporary duty.

"It's important that our people get an opportunity to be at their home base to train and stay proficient," said Casey. "It is also very important that our people get an opportunity to be at home and get some quality time with their family."

Equally important is when it's time to train, that airmen and NCOs have the best professional military education facilities

possible. RAF Feltwell's airmen leadership school is about to undergo renovations that will make it one of the largest and best equipped in the Air Force. It's part of a list of improvements geared toward PME.

"We're putting money into our command NCO academy to update the classrooms with some computer technology as well as our leadership school at Kapaun (AS, Germany)," said Casey. "We're also getting ready to build a new school at Aviano (AB, Italy). People are our No. 1 concern and we need to make sure we're taking care of them on and off duty."



Mirage 2000 visit

Photo by SrA. Grace Hunt

French maintainers and aircrew prepare to launch a jet from RAF Lakenheath. Five French Mirage 2000D air-to-ground variants visited Lakenheath from March 18 through Wednesday as part of a good-will exchange. While here, the French aircrews took part in training exercises with aircrews from the 492nd Fighter Squadron.

Base airman killed in motorcycle accident

A airman died when he crashed his motorcycle at approximately 9:30 a.m. Tuesday while traveling the B1112 between Lakenheath village and Eriswell village.

No other vehicles were involved in the accident.

A1C Christopher Rice, 48th Communications Squadron, lost control of his motorcycle when he veered onto a gravel shoulder, according to 48th Fighter Wing safety officials. He was pronounced dead at the scene at 9:54 a.m.

Emergency vehicles from the Suffolk Constabulary and 48th FW responded to the accident.

Base flags will be flown at half staff through XXXX.